

Happily Never After

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Summary: {Story 1 of 3.} Not all Heroes have good hearts. Not all Villains are evil to the core.

1. Chapter 1

Disclaimer: I do not own Xiaolin Showdown, any fairy tales or the Dark Parables games which inspired me to write this. I do own Garnet Chambers though.

Author's note: This was originally on my other account, Horror-mite (now DarkParableDetective). I moved it here along with it's sequel. Both stories will be revised and a third story will be added making it the Garnet Chambers Saga.

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Happily Never After

Chapter 1: In a far away land

Once upon a time, in a far away land, there lived 4 young children. They lived in a temple with a wise old master and a wise even older dragon. These four children were trained in the art of martial arts and magic. Their goal was to protect earth from evil.

The truth? The Once Upon A Time thing is wrong. It happened almost 2 months ago. The Far Away Land bit merely reflects on how far away you live from China. Everything else is true.

The four children were named Omi, Clay, Raimundo and Kimiko. Their old master was Master Fung and the dragon was Dojo. The martial arts and magic is defiantly true.

The Xiaolin temple helped to train the monks in their battle against the Heylin. The monks used special items called Shen-Gong-Wu.

But this isn't where our story starts. No, our story starts with a talking cat.

What? In a story that features Dragons and mystical items, why are you so surprised?

It was a muggy, hot day at the temple. The dragons were half way through their chores. Kimiko stopped sweeping and wiped her forehead. She was hoping to relax and cool down. The heat was killing her.

Kimiko lent against her broom as she stood in front of the main hall. The irony of the heat killing a fire dragon was not lost on her, and Kimiko began to chuckle to herself. Then her attention fell onto a cat.

It was the most oddest thing she had seen.

The orange tomcat simply walked into the temple, trotted up the path and then sat down in the middle of said path. It looked round before it's bright green eyes landed on Kimiko. That wasn't what had gotten her attention.

The fact that the cat was wearing a blue scarf and a blue musketeer's hat. That was what got Kimiko's attention.

"Kimiko! Why have you stopped? You should be working!" Omi scolded. The boy all joined Kimiko who continued to ignore them.

"Leave it out Omi. It's too hot." Raimundo complained. Omi turned with the intention of scolding Raimundo too.

"It is awfully hot, isn't it?"

The dragons looked round the courtyard. "Who said that?" Clay ventured.

"I did." The dragons jumped back. All eyes turned to the animal in front of them. "Was that...you?" Kimiko asked.

The cat bowed his head slightly. "My name is Sir Baxter Pussywillow the Third." He looked back at the dragons. "You can call me Puss."

"It's a talking cat." Kimiko whispered. Omi leapt into fighting stance.

"It could be a spy from Chase Young." The cat frowned.

"I find that a little offensive to be called a spy." He scoffed. Puss wrinkled his nose in confusion. "Who is this Chase Young?" The dragons didn't not reply; instead they merely looked at each other. Puss shook his head. "Never mind. I need your help."

"Like hell we'd help an enemy." Raimundo shot back. Puss let out a growl of frustration.

"How can we be enemies if we've never met?" The dragons fell silent. "I need help with two things. Where am I and I need to find my boots."

"Wait a minute." Kimiko walked down the steps to Puss. "Are you saying you're Puss in Boots? _The_ Puss in Boots?" Puss clicked his tongue over his teeth.

"A most ridiculous nickname to be fair but yes. I am Puss in Boots." Kimiko blinked slowly.

"But you're a fairy tale!" She spluttered. Puss rose an eyebrow.

"A what? What are you talking ab-"

"SHEN-GONG-U ALERT!"

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><p>With the heat as bad as it was, Jack Spicer reasoned that it was okay for him to just laze away. The actual thought of him doing anything productive made Jack break out into a sweat.<p>

So there he was, trying to stay cool when his Wu detector went off. Jack could have left it but he had to get the Wu if he wanted to be ruler of the world.

Getting dressed had been a pain. The absences of his boots just added to it. "Mom! Where are my boots?" Jack yelled from the open door of his lair. There came no reply.

"Bloody woman. Always messing with my st-" Jack paused and looked down. Sat next to the door was a pair of dark brown leather boots. Oddly enough they were covered in cat hair. Knowing he was on a short time limit, Jack pulled on the boots. Surprisingly they fitted him well.

Jack paid it little thought as he set off with a few Jackbots.

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><p>"What's the wu Dojo?"<p>

Omi unrolled the wu scroll as Dojo spoke. "The Axe of Silver-"

"Can cut through anything." Puss began. Everyone looked at him. "It can. Unlike it's sister which can only cut the golden tree."

"Okay. What?" Raimundo asked. Puss sighed and shifted in his place. Dojo winced.

"Hey. Watch where you put those claws." He complained. Puss ignored him.

"The golden axe and the silver axe were created by the Gemini Goddesses. The golden axe can only cut through the golden tree. The silver axe can cut through anything. Stone, trees, granite. Anything."

"So how did the axe become a Wu?" Clay inquired from the back. All eyes turned to Dojo.

"That isn't our axe. The Wu axe can turn the user into steel and

become indestructible." The dragon explained.

"Ah." Puss mumbled.

"Why did you think it had become a Wu?" Clay called from the back.

"Well the axes were stolen from the Goddesses. I just thought..." Puss trailed off with a shrug.

"Stolen? They must not have been very clever goddesses then." Omi huffed. Puss waved his paws erratically.

"Shh! Don't say things like that. You don't wanna get cursed do you?" The dragons looked at each other. "The golden axe was hidden by a witch and the silver axe was taken by Jack."

"Jack? As in Jack Spicer?" Kimiko asked. Puss cocked his head to one side.

"Who?"

"Never mind." The group lapsed into silence. The dragons rode over a small village where Dojo came to a sudden stop.

"Dojo? What's wrong?" Clay asked.

"There's a giant tree in the way." Puss moved forward, sitting on Dojo's head.

"That's not a tree. That's a beanstalk." He gasped. High above in the trees there came a sound of clashing metal. "We need to go to the beanstalk. Now." Puss urged. Dojo flew towards the object.

At the bottom of the beanstalk, the dragons and Puss found Jack trying to pull the Wu from the base. Puss's hackles rose suddenly. "Hey! You've got my boots!"

Jack turned and regarded Puss. "I didn't think the Xiaolin Losers would hang around with Chases's friends." He snipped. Puss meowed loudly and launched himself at Jack. The pair tumbled to the ground.

Before the dragons could move, something shook the beanstalk. A female slid down, using two swords to stop her fall. She was near the ground when she stopped. The female looked back up.

"God damn it Jack! Think of your mother and sister!" She urged.

"But I don't have a sister." Jack muttered from the ground. The Boy Genius rubbed his head as a shadow fell over him. He looked up before let out a sudden scream. Puss continued advance again.

"My boots. Now." He unleashed his claws causing Jack to pull the boots off and throw them at the cat.

"Take them! Don't hurt me!" Dojo watched Puss pull on the boots.

"Much better." The cat purred.

"You could walk just fine without them." The dragon pointed out. The clashing of metal started again.

"I know but walking on all fours is so uncouth." Puss replied. "If you want that axe, I suggest you get it now. While everyone is currently busy."

The dragons surged into life which also prompted Jack to call his Jackbots. One Jackbot flew too close to the female who stopped fighting and held a hand out toward the machine.

"Hey! What are you doing with my Jackbot?" Jack called out in a whine. The female ignored him.

The Jackbot spluttered and shook in the air. The female threw her hand up in the direction of the clouds. The Jackbot shot up. It disappeared in the clouds. Then there was a sudden clank and the Jackbot came hurtling back towards the female.

There wasn't enough time for her to move. The female and the Jackbot collided painfully, sending the female, her swords and the Jackbot crashing to the ground.

"Garnet!" Puss rushed towards the female as Raimundo tugged the axe free. There came a shake and a groan before the beanstalk disappeared from view.

2. Chapter 2

****Chapter 2: There Was A...****

With all the chaos that happened around them and the fact he was scared by Puss, Jack fled the scene without so much as a lame quip about how he would be back. The dragons huddled round the Wu and stared in wonder. "It doesn't look like much." Clay muttered.

"When has any of the Wu looked like much Clay?" Kimiko turned to look at the still form of the female. "A bigger question is what are we going to do about her?"

"We can not leave her. It is the duty of the Xiao-" Raimundo cut Omi off.

"We get it Omi. We'll take her back to the temple. Maybe she can help us with what just happened." With the plan now set, the Dragons carefully placed the female onto Dojo. They propped her up against Clay in case she fell during the flight home. Puss climbed up next with a paw firmly on the female's two swords.

"Do you know who she is?" Kimiko inquired. Puss nodded his head as Dojo set off into the sky.

"I wouldn't say we're best friends but we know each other." Puss glanced down at the swords. "I know what she is and what she does in any case." The rest of the journey fell into silence.

* * *

><p>The dragons had set the female down in the temple hall. The room was cool enough and there were plenty of people to keep an eye on her.<p>

Kimiko was currently on that duty. She watched the boys from the temple hall door playing around with the new Wu. Puss sat down next to her.

"Who was that on the beanstalk? I know she called out Jack but who is he?" Kimiko asked. Puss wrinkled his nose slightly.

"Jack, King of the Beanstalk. The sole ruler of the kingdom in the skies." Puss began to wash his paws while he spoke. "That man's a maniac."

Kimiko's eyes drifted back to the female. "She fought against a giant?" Puss stared at Kimiko in confuse.

"Is this one of your fairytale jokes again?" Kimiko grew red in the face.

"It's not a joke!" She snapped. The boys turned to Kimiko and Puss. "Jack and the Beanstalk. Jack fought a giant." Kimiko insisted. Puss shook his head.

"Jack is no giant. He stole the silver axe from the goddesses, killed a giant and was driven mad by the power. His sister still walks the lands looking for a way to bring him back." Puss explained. Raimundo motioned to the still female.

"What about her?"

"Garnet?" Puss frowned. "She's no help."

"How do ya know partner?" Clay asked. Puss straightened his hat.

"Garnet Chambers did some questionable things with some questionable people. She's a liar and a cheat and a treasure hunter. But," Puss began to feel bad about what he said. "The gods saw kindness in her and allowed her to become their vessel."

"If we're going to talk about questionable things with questionable people, you might want to look at yourself Baxter." A voice from behind spat. The dragons and Puss all jumped and turned as one. Garnet Chambers was now awake. She glared at Puss as she rubbed her head.

Garnet was a slender looking woman who openly wore her battle scars. She had pure white hair and steel grey eyes set in a frown. Her outfit which consisted of a tank top, shorts and boots were set in a gold, white and brown combo. A tattered red cloak was fixed over one shoulder.

Puss wiggled his nose in thought. "I have no idea what you're talking about." He muttered. The dragons clearly knew something was up. Garnet stopped rubbing her head and fixed an even heated glare at Puss.

"You know damn well what I'm talking about. And if anyone here is a

liar, it's you." She shot back. The ginger tomcat shuffled nervously on his spot.

"Please. Would a noble cat such as I lie to these people?" Puss scoffed.

"Wouldn't be the first time you lied to people." Garnet shot back. For the first time her attention directed itself to the dragons. "Every stop to wonder where his family is?" The dragons did not answer. "It's because he's been banished from them."

Puss's heckles rose again and he hissed at Garnet. "Shut up! I was not!" He snapped. Garnet ignored him and carried on.

"He's a complusive liar. Baxter tricked numerous people concerning a poor peaseant boy."

"I help him!"

"He was banished because he helped someone?" Clay hitched his hat up in thought. "Sounds mighty cruel to me."

"Oh that wasn't why he was banished. Baxter's family are a breed of werecat; highly intelligent and very rich. Baxter was suppose to marry one of his own kind from a far off land. Instead," Garnet looked briefly back at Puss who seemed to plead with her. "He falls for a shepardess and persues her. Only thing she sees him as a farm cat. Deep wounds indeed."

Puss seemed smaller then before. "I wish you wouldn't remind me of that." He whispered.

"Then don't go making out I'm some sort of villian. I'm an anti-hero at best." Garnet tried to stand but her legs wobbled and she fell back down. She let a groan.

"But you cheat. You steal." Omi began. Garnet regarded the little monk.

"I cheat but I don't steal. I'm a treasure hunter." Garnet ran a hand through her hair again. "But if the gods need me then I have to help. Which reminds me." Garnet looked back at the dragons. "Where in the nine kingdoms am I?"

"You are at the proud Xiaolin Temple." Omi bragged, puffing his chest out. Garnet paused in thought.

"I didn't realise I'd traveled to the Kingdom of the Rise Sun. How odd." She muttered. "Doesn't explain why Puss is here."

"What do you mean by that?" Dojo inquired.

"Puss doesn't travel too far. Maybe to the gate of the farm. No further." Garnet replied. Puss snorted and pointed a claw at Kimiko.

"She keeps saying that we're fairytales." He informed. Kimiko felt her temper rise again.

"That's because you are!" She yelled. Something seemed to click

inside Garnet's head.

"I need to contact the gods." She looked back at the dragons who were trying to stop Kimiko from killing Puss. "Everyone out. Now." The dragons didn't move at first. "Now!" Garnet barked.

They all surged into life and left the hall. "Close the door!" Garnet ordered. Raimundo and Clay closed the hall doors with a heavy thump.

* * *

><p>2 hours past before Garnet left the hall. She looked more drained then before as she stumbled outside into the sun. The monks were quick to her side. Master Fung watched Garnet struggle to walk. "Is there anything you need?" He inquired.<p>

"Food. I'm starving." Garnet replied.

In the dining room Puss, the dragons, Master Fung and Dojo waited for Garnet to explain. Instead she took her time stuffing her face. After a while Master Fung coughed polity. "Miss Chambers?"

"Call me Garnet." The female replied. She ate some more food before wiping her mouth. "And what do I call you guys?"

"My name is Master Fung. This is Kimiko, Raimundo, Omi, Clay and Dojo." Garnet nodded her head slowly as each name was state. She then looked at Puss.

"You owe Kimiko an apology Baxter." The cat in question spluttered loudly.

"I do not!"

"Yeah. You do." Garnet rested her elbows on the table. "According the gods, Kimiko is right. We just so happen to be fairytales in this world." Puss stared at her in shock. "And one of our fairytale people stole something important and caused this mess."

"If we were fairytales then they should have some way to prove it." Puss countered. Kimiko instantly got to her feet.

"I've got something!" She declared and was off like a shot. A few minutes later she came back with a large book. Fairytales was written in gold on the cover. "Get a load of this." Kimiko grinned and opened the book.

"Get a load of what?" Puss sniffed. Omi peered at the book.

"Why are the pages blank?"

"Don't be silly Omi. Of course the pages aren't bla-" Kimiko stared in shock at her beloved childhood book.

Every page had gone blank.

****Chapter 3: ...Portal Reflux.****

"They call it a portal reflux." Garnet began. Kimiko flicked through her book numerous times but every page was blank.

"A portal what?" Dojo asked. Puss scoffed to himself.

"That's just a myth." He retorted. Garnet paid him no mind.

"A portal reflux. Your world and our world are connected but are kept hidden from each other. Only the gods know of your world. Well...up until now."

"What has this got to do with my book?" Kimiko angrily asked. Garnet held up a gloved hand.

"I'll get to that in a second. Now when a portal reflux happens, which is like once in a blue moon so to speak, the barrier becomes weak. If you're lucky enough, you can catch a glimsp into our world. Only you won't be able to talk to or touch anything. Just look. This is why you have fairytales."

"Let me see if Ah got this right." Clay lent forward and the table groaned under the weight of his elbows. "You're sayin' that every fairytale in the world was created because of this portal reflux?"

"You got it partner. Not only that but all your nursery rhymes as well. We're kind of one big happy fighting family." Garnet grinned.

"What will happen if your world is not restored?" Master Fung inquired.

"The usual. Total destruction of our world. No biggie." Garnet shrugged.

"No boggie? Your world will be destroyed. Do you not care? What kind of vessel are you?" Omi demanded. He jumped on the table and pointed a finger wildly at Garnet. Clay grabbed hold of his friend.

"Easy partner. Ah'm sure Garnet does care really. And Ah think you mean biggie."

"That is what I said!"

"I do but I've become pretty much use to it. You try keeping nine kingdoms from killing each other. On top of that there's all the witches, wizards, fairies and general folk who go messing around with magic." Garnet sighed dramtically. "A girl can get rushed off her feet."

"Not to mention you mess around with magic most of the time." Puss shot back. Garnet glared at him.

"It's not magic you ass." Garnet turned back to the dragons all stared at her. "What?"

"That thing you did to one of Jack's robots." Dojo began. Puss muttered magic under his breath. Garnet shoved her hand out in his

direction. The chair he sat on tremble before sliding against the kitchen. It smacked into a cupboard before toppling over.

"That?" The dragons nodded their head. "Telekinesis with Telepathy thrown into the mix." Garnet pointed to her hair. "That's why my hair is white. Some of us are marked in certain ways when we're born. Mine was having white hair."

"Which is why your parents abandoned you." Puss muttered. He set his chair up right and sat down.

"You are this close Puss! I swear to the holy heaven kingdom!" Garnet raged. Puss gave her an indifferent look.

"What about your weapons?" Master Fung inquired. All eyes turned to Garnet's weapons; two swords that were resting against the wall of the kitchen.

"Ruby the demonic sword and Peridot the angelic sword." The dragons continued to stare at the swords. Ruby was mostly red in several hues. Peridot was most white and yellow.

"You mentioned nine kingdoms." Dojo commented.

"The nine kingdoms of our world. The Heavenly Kingdom, the Kingdom of the Rising Sun, the Sky Kingdom, The Rosa Kingdom, The Ice Kingdom, The Seaside Kingdom, The Glass Kingdom, The Apple Kingdom and The Briar kingdom." Puss replied.

"So how do you know all about this portal reflux thing?" Raimundo asked. Garnet forced herself to turn away from Puss. She lifted one side of her top to show a powder blue swirl design on her side.

"I am a vessal of the gods. There are many of us around our world. I have other jobs and means for money but when the gods call..." Garnet trailed off and pulled her top down. "Because of the mark on my side, I can talk to the gods whenever I want. Usually they contact me but they couldn't get through. This whole mess has caused too many problems. They're coming in like static."

"But they told you everything you need to know?" Master Fung asked. Garnet nodded her head.

"They mentioned something known as a Shen-gong-wu." The dragons looked at each other. Garnet frowned in thought. "When a shen-gong-wu shows itself you will find the other residents. Send them through a story book to restore order." Garnet shrugged. "Something like that."

"We have the story book." Kimiko grinned.

"And we have a way to detect a Wu." Omi proclaimed pointing at Dojo. Puss felt incredibly confused.

"Before we get ahead of ourselves. Just what is a Shen-gong-wu?" The dragons, Master Fung and Dojo began to retell the history of the Xiaolin Temple, the Wu and their purpose and the rules of a Xiaolin Showdown. By the end of it, Puss felt his head spin.

End
file.